GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1491
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2002
INTERNET SERVICES
RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given priority to immediately available internet services for agriculture, textile and agro based industries in distant areas of the country;

(b) whether permission has also been given to international gateways also for encouraging internet;

(c) whether Government have also constituted an advisory committee for this work; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Government has taken the following steps for encouragement of Internet services in the distant areas of the country.

(i) Under Internet Service Provider (ISP) policy, Licence fee upto 31.10.2003 has been waived and subsequently, only a nominal licence fee of Re.1/- per annum.

(ii) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) has made available Internet facility in all district headquarters of the country.

(iii) Internet facility has been extended to 5,518 block headquarter (Both Rural and Urban) of the country as on 31.12.2001 by BSNL.

(iv) Internet Nodes have been set up by BSNL in hilly areas like Shillong, Imphal, Kohima, Almorah, Solan etc.

(v) BSNL, through the scheme Internet Dhabas set up through franchisees, has provided Internet dial-up connections to 2976 Internet Dhabas in both rural and urban block headquarters as of 31.12.2001.

(vi) To promote proliferation of Internet in rural areas, BSNL is offering free Internet access for Internet Dhabas in rural block headquarters.

(vii) Internet Dhaba Franchisees are also eligible for 25% of the Public Switching Telephone Network (PSTN) access charges as commission.

(b) Yes, Sir. ISPs have been permitted to set up International gateway for Internet using satellite medium and submarine cable medium after getting security clearance.

(c) & (d): A Bandwidth Advisory Committee consisting of eminent personalities of Information Technology (IT) and Telecom industry has been set up to advise Department of Telecommunications (DOT) on the steps to be taken to ensure that bandwidth is available on demand. The Committee has representative from Department of Telecom, Department of Information Technology, National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), Internet Service Provider Association of India (ISPAI), Stoc Exchange Board of India (SEBI) etc.